

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A ~~ball~~ basketball having at least a part thereof being made of an artificial leather comprising:

a fiber-entangled fabric and a porous surface layer disposed on a surface of the fiber-entangled fabric, the porous surface layer having a pattern formed by a plurality of outwardly projecting pebbles and valleys between the pebbles; and

a plurality of microholes having an average diameter of 5 to 100  $\mu\text{m}$  being formed on surfaces of the pebbles, but the microholes being substantially not formed on surfaces of the valleys.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The ~~ball~~ basketball according to claim 1, wherein an average spacing between adjacent microholes is 5 to 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The ~~ball~~ basketball according to claim 1, wherein the microholes are formed on the pebbles in a density of 100 to 1,000/ $\text{mm}^2$ .

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The ~~ball~~ basketball according to claim 1, wherein an average height difference between the pebbles and valleys in the pattern is 100 to 500  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The ~~ball~~ basketball according to claim 1, wherein the microholes present on the pebbles are formed by buffing.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The ~~ball~~ basketball according to claim 1, wherein a softening agent is applied to at least surfaces of the pebbles on which the microholes are present.

Claim 7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The ~~ball~~ basketball according to claim 6, wherein an amount of the softening agent applied to at least surfaces of the pebbles is 0.5 to 10 g/m<sup>2</sup> in terms of solid content.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The ~~ball~~ basketball according to claim 1, wherein a surface area of each pebble is 0.3 to 10 mm<sup>2</sup>.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The ~~ball~~ basketball according to claim 1, wherein a surface area of each pebble is 0.5 to 5 mm<sup>2</sup>.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The ~~ball~~ basketball according to claim 1, wherein the average diameter of microholes is 5 to 80 μm.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The ~~ball~~ basketball according to claim 1, wherein the average diameter of microholes is 7 to 60 μm.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The ~~ball~~ basketball according to claim 1, wherein the average diameter of microholes is 8 to 40 μm.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The ~~ball~~ basketball according to claim 1, wherein the average diameter of microholes is 8 to 35  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The ~~ball~~ basketball according to claim 1, wherein the microholes are formed in a surface area of each pebble from the top to 50  $\mu\text{m}$  below the top of each pebble.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The ~~ball~~ basketball according to claim 1, wherein the microholes are formed in a surface area of each pebble from the top to 40  $\mu\text{m}$  below the top of each pebble.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The ~~ball~~ basketball according to claim 1, wherein the microholes are formed in a surface area of each pebble from the top to 30  $\mu\text{m}$  below the top of each pebble.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The ~~ball~~ basketball according to claim 2, wherein the average spacing between adjacent microholes is 10 to 70  $\mu\text{m}$

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The ~~ball~~ basketball according to claim 2, wherein the average spacing between adjacent microholes is 20 to 50  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 20 (New): A handball having at least a part thereof made of an artificial leather comprising:

a fiber-entangled fabric and a porous surface layer disposed on a surface of the fiber-entangled fabric, the porous surface layer having a pattern formed by a plurality of outwardly projecting pebbles and valleys between the pebbles; and

a plurality of microholes having an average diameter of 5 to 100  $\mu\text{m}$  being formed on surfaces of the pebbles, but the microholes being substantially not formed on surfaces of the valleys.

Claim 21 (New): A rugby ball having at least a part thereof made of an artificial leather comprising:

a fiber-entangled fabric and a porous surface layer disposed on a surface of the fiber-entangled fabric, the porous surface layer having a pattern formed by a plurality of outwardly projecting pebbles and valleys between the pebbles; and

a plurality of microholes having an average diameter of 5 to 100  $\mu\text{m}$  being formed on surfaces of the pebbles, but the microholes being substantially not formed on surfaces of the valleys.

Claim 22 (New): An American football having at least a part thereof made of an artificial leather comprising:

a fiber-entangled fabric and a porous surface layer disposed on a surface of the fiber-entangled fabric, the porous surface layer having a pattern formed by a plurality of outwardly projecting pebbles and valleys between the pebbles; and

a plurality of microholes having an average diameter of 5 to 100  $\mu\text{m}$  being formed on surfaces of the pebbles, but the microholes being substantially not formed on surfaces of the valleys.